



Lynchburg's Midtown Plan

By now you've probably heard that efforts are underway to develop a "Midtown Plan." Similar to the Downtown Master Plan and its subsequent implementation, this will be an effort to revitalize an area of the City that has experienced decreasing property values and numerous vacancies.

The Midtown Area grew over the last fifty years from a country crossroads to an auto-oriented suburb. Prior to the 1950's, the only major landmarks were the Miller Home (orphanage) and Miller Park. The Midtown Area is amebic in shape and has vague boundaries, unlike the clear, rectangular grid of Downtown (est. 1787) or the strong spine of Rivermont Avenue (est. 1890). These walkable areas were formally planned, block by block and parcel by parcel, for future landowners to build upon over time in an organized manner.

The Midtown Area, on the other hand, evolved during the early age of prevalent automobile use. There was no formal City plan for the area and no formal name. Private interests purchased land and built where they saw fit. Hence, the "center" of the so-called Midtown Area became the Plaza Shopping Center. The outside perimeter of the area extends roughly from Lynchburg General Hospital to E.C. Glass High School to Miller Park to Lynchburg College's entrance on Lakeside Drive.

Given this informal planning history, one of the goals of the

Midtown study is to have high public participation during the planning process. This will help the City create a plan that responds to Lynchburg's needs and aspirations for the area. The result should be a more vibrant, orderly, attractive, and economically strong area for our City.

To create such a plan, our planning consultants, Dover Kohl & Partners, will conduct a hands-on design session as part of a week-long planning process, sometimes referred to as a "Charrette." Drawing on the ideas shared by the public during the design sessions, and using their professional expertise, the planning consultants will develop Lynchburg's first Midtown Area Plan.

Everyone reading this newsletter is invited to attend the following sessions:

Kick-off Presentation
by Dover Kohl & Partners
April 22, 2005
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Lynchburg College Ballroom

Hands-on Design Session (Charrette)
April 23, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Former Heironimus Store
on the lower level of the Plaza

Work-in-Progress Presentation
by Dover Kohl & Partners
April 28, 2005
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Feel free to contact Community Planning and Development at 455-3902 or Communications and Marketing at 455-3800 for more details.

City Volunteers "Inspire by Example"

Editor's Note:

"Inspire by Example" is the theme for National Volunteer Week, April 17-23. Last year, volunteers gave an estimated 23,000 hours of service to the City for an estimated value of over \$460,000. Hundreds of citizens volunteer their time and talents by serving on boards and commissions, coaching sports teams, pruning trees, picking up litter, and performing various other duties. They serve a valuable role in this organization and their selflessness should be an inspiration to us all. The article below focuses on the wonderful volunteers at the Lynchburg Public Library but our thanks go out to all our City volunteers for a job well done!

The Library's volunteer program began in 1995 with 42 volunteers and the financial support of the Friends of the Library. Over the last ten years, a total of 614 volunteers have provided 35,905 hours of service. In today's volunteer dollar value that equates to \$718,818! In 2004, \$14,000 was given to the Library for the volunteer program by the Friends of the Library. During that time 80 volunteers provided 3,222 hours of service for a total value of \$64,500, a net savings of \$50,500.

Library volunteers provide a wide variety of services including cleaning books, preparing Outreach books for senior citizens, shelf-reading the shelves, organizing and sorting new and gift materials, helping with craft programs, assisting at the circulation and reference desks, etc. Chris Verilla, the volunteer coordinator for the Library, says she doesn't know what they would do now without their volunteers. "Our volunteers help us provide better and faster service to the citizens. They do vital jobs, not just busywork." said Verilla.

Currently, the Library averages 30 volunteers per month. Their ages range from 13 to well into their 80's.



Long term volunteers, Bob Lightle (9 yrs), Barbara Haskins (6 yrs), and Mary White (10 yrs) volunteer behind the scenes at the Library. Bob handles a variety of technical services, Barbara cleans books, and Mary manages all gifts to the Library.

There are 25 long term volunteers, four of which have volunteered for ten years, and one has volunteered nine years. Each summer between 35 and 40 teenagers volunteer doing everything from assisting children with crafts to shelving books to assisting with computer classes.

Volunteering adds to the quality of all our lives. Help make a difference in Lynchburg by sharing your special gifts, skills, abilities, and talents with your local City government! Volunteers are always needed not only for the Library, but Parks and Recreation activities, the Museum system, City boards and commissions, etc. To learn how you can volunteer, visit us on the web at www.lyncburgva.gov and click the link *Volunteer! Lynchburg* or call 455-3800.

Volunteers March On Litter!

On March 19, twenty-one citizens braved the cool and damp conditions for "March on Litter." This annual event, co-sponsored by the City of Lynchburg and Citizens for a Clean Lynchburg, gives volunteers an opportunity to collectively clean-up littered areas in the city. This year's event netted over 8,000 pounds of trash, debris, and tires. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped make Lynchburg a cleaner place to live, not only during this event, but all year long!

Community Market... Changes Coming!

The Lynchburg Community Market is one of the oldest operating community markets in the United States. The Market has been a part of Lynchburg since 1783, moving several times before finding a permanent home at 12th and Main Streets in 1932. The economic forces that led to a decline in the popularity of community markets across the country affected the Lynchburg Community Market as well. Fortunately, the Market has always had an enthusiastic group of citizens who supported it and recognized its potential. Today, the Market is continuing to grow and change as an integral and exciting part of the downtown renaissance.

In the fall of 2004 the City of Lynchburg, The Friends of the Community Market, and Lynch's Landing joined together to hire a nonprofit group, Project for Public Spaces, Inc., (PPS) to study the current condition of the Market and explore the opportunities for the future. Project for Public Spaces issued a final report in September and a forum was held in October to release the report to the public. A task force comprised of City staff, market vendors, representatives of citizen groups and interested citizens was formed to consider the PPS report and develop recommendations for City Council's consideration.

Recommendations from the task force have been considered by City Council and in late February, City Council approved funding for:

- Architectural/engineering services to design renovations to the interior of the building to improve circulation, lighting, flexibility, and efficiency.

- Architectural/engineering services to create a new "Market Square" for the exterior of the Market that would improve the space for public events, improve the outdoor vendor space, improve the pedestrian-vehicle flow, and create maximum flexibility and retail potential of the exterior Market space.



Recognizing the need for additional parking to serve the Market and development of Main, Commerce, and Twelfth Streets, architectural/engineering conceptual designs for parking will be completed in early summer of 2005.

Additional issues that continue to be discussed include non-profit management of the Community Market, using other public/private sector partnerships as a model; establishment of market-driven rental rates; funding for a full-time Market Manager as part of the management plan/structure, and finally, establishment of a marketing mix that follows the guidelines in the PPS report recommendations and is supported by local marketing research.

How to Get Involved

There will be many opportunities for members of the community who wish to be involved in the design process to give input as the architectural and engineering design work begins this summer and continues into the fall. These opportunities will be advertised in the local media.

BRUSH & BULK COLLECTION

One Call Does It All For City Residents!

Just call **856-CITY (2489)** for your brush and bulk pickup requests. Phone calls are taken weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. After you call and receive a scheduled brush and bulk pickup date, place your brush and bulk items on the curb in front of your residence. Please place items out the day before your scheduled pickup, since the crew might come as early as 7:00 a.m. on your scheduled day.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing regarding the FY 2006 Proposed Operating Budget and the FY 2006-2010 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Lynchburg, which includes funding for general government services, airport, schools, water, sewer, solid waste, and other funds is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 7:15 p.m.** in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 900 Church Street. The purpose of this hearing is to receive citizen input.

Interested persons who wish to speak at this public hearing will be given an opportunity to be heard. Each speaker will be allowed a limited time to offer input. Time limitations will be observed.

All Business and Professional Licenses Due by May 2

For more information call 455-3880.
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mitchell W.uckles
Commissioner of the Revenue
900 Church Street - City Hall

Lynchburg City School Board Vacancy Notice

The terms of three Lynchburg School Board members will expire on **June 30, 2005**. Two members are eligible to be considered for re-appointment. The representative from School District 3 is not eligible for re-appointment.

Lynchburg City Council invites residents interested in serving on the School Board to complete an application. An application may be obtained in the City Clerk's Office, 900 Church Street, City Hall, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or you can download a copy from the City's web site at www.lyncburgva.gov. City Council will make appointments for three-year terms of office **commencing July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2008**.

Applications must be received by the City Clerk prior to the **May 10** public hearing regarding School Board appointments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 455-3995, or e-mail patricia.kost@lyncburgva.gov